

H O N O R S P R O G R A M



**FEDERAL
TRADE
COMMISSION**

“May this permanent home of the FTC stand for all time as a symbol of the purpose of government to insist on a greater application of the golden rule to the conduct of corporations and enterprises in their relationship to the body public.”

— FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT, DEDICATING
THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION BUILDING IN
1937

THE FTC HONORS PROGRAM ATTORNEYS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

For more than eight decades, Federal Trade Commission (FTC) attorneys have championed the interest of consumers throughout the nation. By supporting and protecting the workings of a free-market economy, the FTC promotes a competitive marketplace, which in turn leads to lower prices, better selection and innovation, and higher quality products and services.

The FTC Honors Program is actively recruiting talented and dedicated law students with an exceptional level of commitment to the public interest to enforce consumer protection and the antitrust laws as mandated by Congress. At the Commission, new attorneys work with senior staff in a fast-paced, dynamic environment to investigate and challenge in federal court and before administrative law judges anticompetitive mergers, fraudulent claims, and other trade practices that cause consumer injury and threaten a free-market economy.

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“While the Court has praise for all counsel in this case, it wants to note in particular the high level of performance by the FTC...Seeing the fine performance of this agency over the past seven weeks indicates that the agency is blessed with a fine staff and outstanding leadership from the top. If this case is an example of the revitalized agency in action, the public interest will be well served in the days to come. An appropriate Order granting Plaintiff the relief it seeks accompanies this Opinion.”

— JUDGE STANLEY SPORKIN, UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE, UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. *FTC v. CARDINAL HEALTH, INC. AND FTC v. MCKESSON CORP*, 12 F. SUPP. 2D 34 (D.D.C. 1998)

THE DEMANDS AND REWARDS OF THE PROFESSION

Legal work at the FTC is challenging, often involving high-profile proceedings, and attorneys are given early exposure to the demands of the profession. Recent law school graduates can expect to interview witnesses, conduct depositions, draft pleadings, consult with economists, and recommend enforcement action to the Commission – work recent graduates would typically wait years to perform in a private law firm. Specializing in such cutting-edge issues as mergers, joint ventures, consumer credit law, investment fraud, industry compliance, and other consumer protection and antitrust matters, FTC attorneys litigate with opposing counsel from many of the best-known law firms in the United States.

In addition to offering a higher entry level than most government agencies, the FTC provides steady advancement for its attorneys. Many of FTC's most respected senior managers rose through the ranks after joining the agency as junior attorneys. A majority of the Bureau of Competition's senior managers, for example, joined the agency shortly after law school, and continue to reap the tangible and intangible benefits of working for the Federal Trade Commission.

“There is something very satisfying in advancing the public interest through government service. And interpreting and enforcing antitrust and consumer protection laws – in a time of vast technological change and in the face of globalization of competition – is as challenging today as any time in recent history.”

—ROBERT PITOFSKY, CHAIRMAN OF THE FTC, FORMERLY PROFESSOR OF LAW AT THE GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER

“The FTC offers a lawyer the unique and fulfilling challenge of shaping antitrust laws and competition policy in a fast-changing and increasingly global marketplace. There simply is no better place for an antitrust lawyer.”

—RICHARD G. PARKER, DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF COMPETITION

“I can’t imagine a place where a junior attorney can do more personally rewarding work, with top-notch, dedicated colleagues, on more interesting cases than the Bureau of Consumer Protection. In the next decade, as the marketplace becomes more global and new marketing media emerge, like the internet, the Bureau’s work will be central to the challenges of the coming information economy.”

—JODIE BERNSTEIN, DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF CONSUMER PROTECTION

CHAMPIONS OF AMERICAN BUSINESS AND CONSUMERS

When the Federal Trade Commission was created as an independent agency in 1914, its original purpose was to prevent unfair methods of competition in commerce as part of the antitrust battle to “bust the trusts.” In 1938, Congress gave the Commission additional power to protect consumers by prohibiting unfair and deceptive acts.

Today, the FTC touches the lives of average Americans every day by pursuing its mandate to protect consumers and businesses alike against anticompetitive behavior and deceptive and unfair practices. Its goal is to ensure that the marketplace is as competitive as possible, so that consumers receive the widest variety of goods and services at the most competitive price.

The FTC is headed by five commissioners, each of whom is nominated by the President and confirmed by the U.S. Senate for a seven-year term. Located in the heart of the nation’s capital, just minutes from the U.S. Capitol, the Supreme Court and the Monuments on the Mall, the FTC headquarters houses the Bureaus of Competition, Consumer Protection, and Economics, the Office of the General Counsel, and several support offices, and oversees the actions of eight regional offices.

Bureau of Competition

As the FTC’s antitrust arm, the Bureau of Competition is responsible for investigating and prosecuting unfair methods of competition, including illegal boycotts, price-fixing, and other types of collusion between competitors. It also investigates

many corporate mergers and acquisitions, and in some cases challenges them as violations of the antitrust laws. The FTC has challenged mergers in a host of industries, including defense, health care, and a broad range of manufacturing industries.

The 161 antitrust attorneys of the Bureau of Competition become thoroughly familiar with most areas of the American economy, particularly those in which consumers spend the most money, including food, energy, and transportation. In the health care industry alone, for example, the Commission brought numerous cases involving attempts by health care providers to fix reimbursement terms, boycott low-cost insurance plans, and prevent other providers from advertising new services and lower prices.

The Bureau employs a broad range of enforcement tools, including litigation in federal district court and before administrative law judges (with appeals to the five Commissioners), filing briefs with the external courts, obtaining consent agreements, and investigating compliance with or violations of prior FTC orders.

In addition to its critical role in the United States, the FTC, being the oldest competition and consumer protection agency in the world, provides guidance and assistance to countries around the globe as they discover the benefits of a national competition policy. The FTC has provided legal and economic assistance to many of the nations of eastern Europe in their efforts to build competitive economies, and will continue to share its knowledge and experience in the years to come.

Bureau of Consumer Protection

The Bureau of Consumer Protection's mandate is to

keep the marketplace free from unfair, deceptive, or fraudulent practices. Working with state attorneys general and other state, local and federal enforcement officials, the Bureau's 142 attorneys enforce a variety of consumer protection laws enacted by Congress, such as the Telemarketing and Consumer Fraud and Abuse Prevention Act, the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, and the Telephone Disclosure and Dispute Resolution Act. The Commission has supported federal district court litigation in its efforts to stop fraud and obtain consumer redress, and relied on administrative litigation in non-fraud cases involving novel or complex issues. It often refers criminal contempt cases to the Department of Justice for further prosecution.

Fraudulent marketers cost consumers billions of dollars each year, and Bureau attorneys act swiftly against them to get injunctions to seize assets and prevent further consumer injury. The Bureau has challenged a broad range of false claims involving weight loss, product safety, health care, business opportunities, and investments. It also has taken the lead in ensuring the accuracy of statements that products are safer for the environment. In its effort to fight abuses in the 900-number industry, the FTC has sought both civil penalties and redress for consumers and is applying long-standing consumer protection laws in emerging media markets such as the Internet and new cable networks.

Spurred by technological advances in telecommunications and finance, cross-border fraud has become a growing issue, and the FTC works closely with countries around the world to combat such fraud.

Bureau of Economics

To ensure that all its actions are based on sound

economic principles, the FTC relies on the Bureau of Economics for statistical and economic analysis before pursuing major antitrust or consumer protection activity. The Bureau also advises the Commission on the impact of government regulation on competition and conducts economic analyses of various markets and industries. Together, Commission attorneys and economists use a mix of strategies to protect market competition in the consumer interest.

Office of the General Counsel

The General Counsel is the Commission's chief legal officer. The office's attorneys represent the agency in the appellate phase of Commission suits seeking preliminary and permanent injunctive relief, and in appellate proceedings to defend agency orders and trade regulation rules. The office also prepares recommendations and briefs in connection with other litigation activities, including agency participation as an *amicus curiae*, and handles actions to enforce compulsory process. The General Counsel provides legal and policy advice to the Commission and its officers and staff on all aspects of agency operations, assures agency compliance with constitutional, statutory, and regulatory requirements, and implements ethical restrictions and standards. The office is also responsible for resolving or recommending the disposition of requests from other law enforcement agencies and Congress for access to confidential agency information.

Regional Offices

The regional offices, located in Atlanta, Chicago, Cleveland, Dallas, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, and Seattle, initiate about one-third of the investigations that lead to Commission actions. Their

cases are similar to those handled in the headquarters offices in Washington, D.C., but because they operate with a small staff, regional office attorneys are considered generalists, and gain knowledge and experience in a variety of case types and industries.

In addition to conducting investigations and engaging in litigation before administrative law judges and in federal and district courts, the regional offices are considered the front line for outreach to consumers and businesses. They respond to numerous calls and letters from the general public seeking information on consumer rights or reporting questionable business practices. Regional office attorneys are key liaisons to state and local enforcement officials and frequently sponsor conferences for small businesses, local law enforcement authorities, and consumer groups.

HONORS PROGRAM

APPLIED LEARNING EXPERIENCE

LEARNING OUTCOMES

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

LEARNING ASSESSMENT

LEARNING EVALUATION

LEARNING REFLECTION

LEARNING FEEDBACK

LEARNING SUPPORT

LEARNING RESOURCES

LEARNING OUTCOMES

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

RESOURCES FOR SUCCESS

Extensive training, most of which comes from working closely with skilled senior attorneys within each Bureau, is critical to the development of the Commission's Honors Program recruits. The FTC's standard of excellence in written work ensures rigorous instruction in legal writing, and, as part of its legal development training program, first-year attorneys receive instruction in brief writing, economic analysis, basic trial advocacy, negotiations, and federal court litigations, among other areas. The FTC often pays for Continuing Legal Education courses, job-related classes at local universities, and attendance at professional meetings and conferences.

In addition to offering appropriate educational opportunities, the Commission is dedicated to providing its attorneys with the technology and training necessary to be effective in legal practice today. Because Commission staff, both at headquarters and in the region, regularly need to interact with colleagues throughout the agency, effective communication is imperative between the Bureaus and offices. Every desktop in the Commission supports state-of-the-art information systems, including access to local area networks that connect all the workstations around the country. Attorneys have access to communications and research tools such as e-mail, the Internet, and a host of other outside systems. The Commission aggressively develops and maintains its computer and telecommunication systems, and provides professional systems training and support through its Information and Technology Management Program.

In Washington, D.C., the FTC maintains a central library that houses one of the nation's most comprehensive collections of legal, economic, and

business resources including an extensive CD-ROM collection that can be accessed directly from each desktop. Regional office staff have small local libraries, but can share the Commission's Washington resources through telecommunication lines. The Commission employs law librarians who provide research assistance in using these collections, obtaining information from other libraries and using internal and external computer information systems.

BENEFITS

For many Commission attorneys, the foremost benefit of working at the FTC is the opportunity to develop professional skills as a lawyer while enjoying the satisfaction of contributing to the welfare of consumers and the effective operation of marketplace competition. But the FTC also offers a competitive benefits package.

Salary

Although salaries conform to ranges approved by Congress, FTC attorneys enter the agency at the GS-11 level, as opposed to the GS-9 level of many other agencies, and have a greater potential for promotion to the GS-15 level. Salaries could exceed the first step of the grade, depending on superior qualifications and experience.

Health/Life Insurance and Retirement

The FTC offers a group life insurance plan and more than 200 health plans from which to choose, depending on each employee's needs. Booklets describing pertinent plans are available from the personnel office.

New federal employees are automatically enrolled in a three-tiered retirement system, which includes Social Security, a basic pension plan, and a tax-deferred thrift savings plan similar to a 401(k) plan. Under the thrift savings plan, staff may contribute up to 10 percent of basic pay into the plan and the FTC will match up to 5 percent of those contributions.

Alternative Work Schedule Program

The FTC offers flexible work schedules to employees to accommodate individual needs to the extent possible while accomplishing the agency's mission and maintaining the quantity and quality of work. Options include compressed work schedules (allowing one day off every two weeks) and the opportunity to vary arrival and departure time other than standard agency hours (8:30a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)

Holidays and Leave

Full-time employees are excused from work, with pay, to observe the 11 national holidays.

Vacation time, known as annual leave, is accrued according to an employee's length of federal service – starting with approximately 2 ½ weeks per year, increasing to 4 weeks after 3 years, and 5 weeks after 15 years of government service.

All employees earn approximately 2 ½ weeks of sick leave each year. To balance demands of the workplace with the needs of families, Commission employees may use leave for the birth, adoption, or foster care of a child and for the care of a family member who has a serious health condition.

Child Care Center

The FTC headquarters in Washington, D.C. offers an on-site child care center for children from age three months to pre-kindergarten. There are also child care centers available at many regional office locations, and more federally sponsored centers open every year.

Health Unit

All offices have access to a health unit that provides emergency medical care and treatment for minor illnesses, injuries, and allergies. In addition, the health unit offers maintenance exams, free preventive health screenings, administration of allergy and flu shots, and other medical regimes prescribed by a private physician.

HONOR PROGRAM APPLICANTS

Applicants should send a resume, a law school transcript, and a writing sample to:

**Director of Attorney Recruitment
Federal Trade Commission
Human Resources Management
Room H-111
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20580**

Offers are extended to third-year students or judicial law clerks in late November for permanent employment to commence the following fall.

The FTC also accepts applications for summer interns, law student volunteers and from experienced attorneys. For more information, contact Human Resources Management at 202-326-2940.

The FTC is committed to ensuring equal employment opportunity in all its policies, practices, and programs, and devotes special attention to the recruitment of minority, disabled, and women candidates. The Commission fully embraces the spirit and letter of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act.

HONORS PROGRAM

**Director of Attorney Recruitment
6th & Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20580
Phone: 202/326-2940
Fax: 202/326-2050**